

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 096307
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:FMCNEIL:SASHELTON:JD
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN
USO:S:GMC GEE
HA LMORINTSUBS)
S/S-O:JTHYDEN

-----016755 141816Z /64
O 141746Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096307

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, VE

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA AND THE IAHR

1. AMBASSADOR MACHIN HAS TOLD SALLY SHELTON THAT HE INTENDS TO PUSH PUBLICLY IN OAS FORUMS FOR AN IAHR VISIT TO NICARAGUA. AMBASSADOR MCGEE JUDGES THAT MACHIN WILL, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, TAKE UP THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT PERMANENT COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO MACHIN OUR VIEW THAT THE BEST WAY TO GET THE IAHR VISIT SOON IS NOT TO HAVE A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN TIME FOR A QUIET U.S. INITIATIVE TOWARDS SOMOZA TO PROSPER. MACHIN SAYS, AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, THAT WE ARE MISREADING SOMOZA AND HE WILL NOT INVITE THE IAHR UNLESS HE IS FORCED TO DO SO BY MOUNTING INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE.

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2. WE ARE INSTRUCTING AMB. SOLAUN TO URGE SOMOZA TO INVITE THE IAHR NOW FOR A VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND TO MAKE THAT INFORMATION PUBLIC.

3. WE ASK THAT YOU CONVEY ABOVE TO FONMIN CONSALVI, OR TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, AND ASK THAT MACHIN

BE INSTRUCTED TO HOLD OFF ON ANY PUBLIC PRESSURES, PARTICULARLY BRINGING IT UP IN THE COUNCIL AGAIN, WILL WORK. WE WOULD LIKE THE VENEZUELANS TO HOLD OFF A MINIMUM OF TWO-THREE WEEKS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOMOZA HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO DO MORE THAN INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO INVITE IAHRIC AT SOME TIME IN THE VAGUE FUTURE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING AN IAHRIC VISIT SOON BY AVOIDING THE PUBLIC ROUTE AND PERMITTING SOMOZA TO SAVE FACE THAN BY FORCING HIM AGAINST THE WALL IN A PUBLIC FASHION. WE ARE MAKING A STRONG PITCH TO SOMOZA AND HOPE IT WILL BE EFFECTIVE. IF IT IS NOT, THEN WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO VENEZUELA'S PROCEEDING WITH ITS OWN PLANS TO PLACE PUBLIC PRESSURE ON HIM. CHRISTOPHER

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